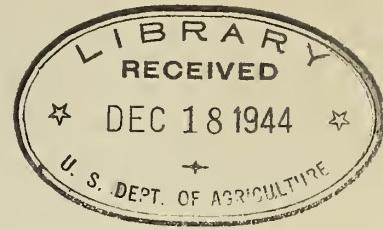


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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Surplus Marketing Administration

No. 5

SMA "WAR BOARD" LETTER

Wash., D.C., Jan. 14, 1942

CHANGE OF NAME: State USDA Defense Boards in the future will be known as State USDA War Boards. Letter from Secretary of Agriculture announcing this change is on way to field. SMA Defense Letter, beginning with this copy will be called SMA "WAR BOARD" LETTER.

MARKETING PROBLEMS IN SOUTH, emphasized by expanded production of the Food for Freedom drive, will be considered at conference in Washington on January 19-20 and 21. Called by Administrator Hendrickson, meeting will be under direction of Dr. Frederick Waugh, Asst. Administrator of Marketing. General idea of conference is to get Federal and State agriculture people in South together for discussion of marketing problems and possible remedies for such crops as fruits and vegetables, dairy products, eggs, chickens, livestock, peanuts, soybeans, cottonseed. Production expansion in these lines in both commercial and non-commercial areas of South may raise new marketing facility problems. In addition, shortages of trucks and other transportation and of burlap bags and other containers must be anticipated. Careful planning to stave off acute situation will be objective of Experiment Station, Extension Service and State Agriculture Department men, and field men of SMA, AAA, BAE, FCA, FSA and AMS attending the conference. Proposed agenda: 1st day - Field men of agencies with marketing programs will outline expected problems; 2nd day - Meeting will break into commodity and State groups for discussion of various special problems; 3rd day - Discussion of group findings and possible remedial programs. Whether similar conferences will be held for other areas of country undecided. Problem in South particularly acute since there is great need for markets, particularly for perishables, regardless of war situation.

OF NOTE: Opposition of Dept. of Agri. to proposed general 10% increase in passenger and freight rates was presented by Asst. Administrator of Marketing Waugh at ICC hearing in St. Louis, Mo., on January 7. Mr. Waugh's statement particularly emphasized that freight rates on agricultural products should not be increased. Copy of statement enclosed.

LOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENT SOON of program for expansion of 1942 production of dry edible beans and dry peas. Program probably will establish production goals for each and provide price support for specified varietal types of peas and beans.

(OVER)

RUMORS OF LARGE SCALE LOSSES in L-L shipments of shell eggs have been spiked by the British Food Ministry. According to a recent statement in a House of Commons debate by Maj. Lloyd George, Parliamentary Undersecretary to the Minister of Foods, losses on L-L shipments of eggs from the United States have amounted to only 5.3 percent. This, say SMA's own poultry experts, compares favorably with normal domestic losses in shell eggs from farm to consumer. Reports of shell egg losses originated from shipments, in early part of program, attempted without benefit of refrigeration in order to expedite, and from necessary handling of shipments under black-out and other war-time conditions. SMA poultry experts estimate, however, that losses never amounted to more than 10% of L-L shipments. Reduction of losses to present low level is result of improved handling, packaging and shipping methods, based on continued studies and experience. Under SMA regulations L-L eggs are held to "export" grade, fully candled, with no loss permitted in cases at outset. Eggs are packed in dry standard cases and are bound with metal straps or wire before stowing. Improvement in handling conditions and fact that no eggs will be shipped without refrigeration after May 15 this year is expected to reduce losses to minimum of normal domestic shipping losses. It is felt that this clarification of L-L egg situation should be good news to American farmers who may have been led to believe that severe losses were being suffered in shipments, and that eggs were arriving in such poor condition that they could not be used. Instead, L-L egg shipments, according to British Food Ministry officials here, are providing the amount of the total British egg supply that permits egg sales to be "allocated" rather than rationed in the strict sense of that word, and are making eggs available in urban areas.

ADMINISTRATOR HENDRICKSON is scheduled to speak at 35th Annual Convention, National Canners Association, Chicago, January 27th. His talk is expected to include latest developments and significance of canning vegetable program. Members of SMA Fruit and Vegetable Division also will be in attendance at conference to discuss program details with canners.

SMA REPRESENTATIVES ON USDA WAR BOARDS: Queries or needs for spot information may be sent directly to Administrator Hendrickson, AMA, Washington, D. C.